

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, SOPN, CA
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU BOOED AT TORONTO BALL GAME; PRESS REPORTS UNDERLINE
DISILLUSIONMENT OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO VOTERS

1. IN A WEEKEND FLYING VISIT TO METROPOLITAN TORONTO, PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU MADE A SERIES OF HIGH VISIBILITY APPEARANCES, INCLUDING A HOCKEY AND A BASEBALL GAME. AT THE BLUE JAY-WHITE SOCK GAME SATURDAY, APRIL 22, "TRUDEAU WAS ROUNDLY BOOED WHEN HE SHOWED UP AT EXHIBITION PARK" ACCORDING TO THE TORONTO STAR. THE BOOING MADE ALL THE TORONTO NEWSPAPERS AND MOST OF THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA SUNDAY AND MONDAY.

2. THE SATURDAY, APRIL 22, TORONTO STAR CARRIED AS ITS LEAD ARTICLE A PIECE BY PROVINCIAL COLUMNIST JONATHAN MANTHORPE. WITH ALMOST FULL PAGE HEADLINES "SICK OF TRUDEAU, COOL TO CLARK, THAT'S SOUTHERN ONTARIO'S VIEW," MANTHORPE WROTE THAT ONTARIANS "WOULD LOVE TO KICK PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU OUT OF OFFICE," BUT "DON'T GO A BUNDLE ON CONSERVATIVE LEADER JOE CLARK EITHER" AND "SENSE THAT THEY ARE LIVING IN A POLITICAL VACUUM." "THERE IS ABSOLUTELY UNANIMITY IN THEIR VIEW THAT THE DEPRESSED STATE OF THE ECONOMY IS THE OVERRIDING ISSUE OF THE ELECTION. NATIONAL UNITY, THE THREAT OF QUEBEC SEPARATION, JUST ISN'T IN THE BALL
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PARK WITH THE ECONOMY AS AN ISSUE PREYING ON THE MINDS OF ONTARIANS." MANTHORPE INTERVIEWED A RANGE OF CITIZENS IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO TO COME TO THIS CONCLUSION AND WHILE "TO A MAN AND A WOMAN, THE PEOPLE INTERVIEWED REMAIN FEDERALISTS WHO WANT QUEBEC TO REMAIN IN CONFEDERATION SOME PEOPLE SEE TRUDEAU AS PART OF THE PROBLEM." ACCORDING TO MANTHORPE, "ONTARIO'S RECOGNIZED

THAT HE(TRUDEAU) REMAINS THE MOST CHARISMATIC AND PERHAPS INTELLIGENT POLITICIAN ON THE NATIONAL SCENE. BUT ONTARIANS SHOW A TENDANCY TO ACCEPT TRUDEAU'S PHYSICAL STAR QUALITY AND TO PUT IT TO ONE SIDE. IT IS A SEPARATE AND COMPARTMENTAL ISSUE THAT THEY, IN GENERAL, DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN CONTEMPLATING THEIR MAJOR CONCERN, THE ECONOMY."

3. THE SUNDAY STAR APRIL 23 CARRIED A REPORT ON METROPOLITAN TORONTO IN PARTICULAR BY WRITER FRANK JONES. ACCORDING TO JONES, "WHEN FEDERAL POLITICIANS COME WOOLING METRO VOTERS IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION CAMPAIGN, THEY ARE GOING TO FIND A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE MADDER THAN HELL. THEY ARE BITTER ABOUT CANADA'S 1,045,000 UNEMPLOYED, DISILLUSIONED ABOUT THE SAGGING ECONOMY, AND FED UP WITH HEARING ABOUT NATIONAL UNITY." A COMPANION ARTICLE, ALSO BY JONES, UNDERLINED ADDITIONAL VOTER CONFUSION WITH THE GOALS OF THE NATIONAL PARTIES AND THE APPARENT EROSION IN VOTER CONFIDENCE AS TO WHAT THE PARTIES STAND FOR - WHAT MAKE THEM DISTINCT.

4. COMMENT- THE EVENTS AND PRESS OPINIONS OF THE WEEK-END HAVE NOT ADDED A NEW DIMENSION TO POLITICAL REALITY IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO BUT HAVE UNDERSCORED WHAT HAS BEEN THE PREVELANT THEME- THE SITUATION IS SO CONFUSED THAT EVEN THE PROFESSIONALS ARE NOT REALLY CONFIDENT OF THEIR
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PARTISAN GUESSES. TRUDEAU AND THE LIBERALS ARE DISLIKED CLARK AND THE TORIES ARE NOT CONSIDERED THAT CAPABLE AND BROADBENT AND THE NDP ARE STILL OUTSIDERS.
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